



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

G/8 Ground Floor, 1 Horse Guards Road SW1A 2HQ

Telephone: 020 7271 0839

Email: acoba@acoba.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/acoba>

7 October 2016

Business Appointments Application: Sir Peter Westmacott GCMG, LVO

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Sir Peter Westmacott, the former HM Ambassador to the United States. He would like to become Vice Chairman of the Tellus Matrix Group a new advisory company.

The Committee noted that the Tellus Matrix Group will advise governments, NGOs, institutions, individuals and corporations from around the world. The intention is to deliver public benefits mitigated risk and accelerated economic development. As Vice Chairman, Sir Peter will support the business in all areas, providing country-specific knowledge and strategic thinking drawn from his political and diplomatic experience. He will also have a leadership and oversight role for the whole organisation.

The Committee noted that this role may involve some contact with Ministers, for example by notifying the UK Government of particular projects at a point it might want to become involved or aware of them. As this is a new organisation, Sir Peter had no dealings with them while in post.

The Committee took into account the views of the FCO, which had no reservations about the appointment.

The Committee's advice to the Foreign Secretary is that there is no reason why he should not take up this appointment, subject to the following conditions:

- Sir Peter should not draw on privileged information available to him as a Crown servant; and
- For two years from his last day of service, Sir Peter should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of the Tellus Matrix Group or its clients.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister or Crown servant has had access as a consequence of his or her office or employment and which has not been made publicly available. Applicants are also reminded that they may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister "should not engage in communication with Government - including Ministers, special advisers and officials - with a view to influencing a Government decision or policy [including applications for awards or grants] in relation to their own interests, or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted".

I should be grateful if, in addition to sending us a copy of your letter to Sir Peter informing him of the outcome of his application, you could also ensure that we are told when he takes up this post or, if earlier, when it is announced that he will do so. We are otherwise unable to deal with any enquiries, as we do not release information about appointments that have not been announced or taken up and this could lead to the false assumption that he did not comply with the rules. In line with our usual practice, we will then publish brief details on our website including, with your agreement, a copy of your letter, and include the main details of the application, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Sir Peter informs us if he proposes to extend or otherwise change his role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for him to make a fresh application.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Millington
Committee Secretariat